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The

Loyola Reporter

Volume 8, Number 5

Loyola Law School

Tuesday, May 14, 1985

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL

MAY 21 1985

LAW LIBRARY

Library Problems Need Checking Out

by Mark Blackman and James W. Ryals

The Dean's forum held earlier this semester demonstrated that library problems go beyond physical construction and remodeling. Since the semester began, the Student Bar Association has received numerous complaints about the library. Some of these are, of course, the typical construction-related complaints. However, many others have been directed at the library's public services department.

These complaints have ranged from staff members being unable to answer basic student questions, to librarians not being around when students need help, to plain rudeness on the part of some staff members. One professor reportedly went so far as to tell his class not to use the library on evenings or week-ends, as the staff might be unable to assist them. While some action has been taken to correct this particular problem, others still remain to be addressed.

An SBA investigation revealed an extremely low morale level among library personnel. Some staff problems have been unaddressed for more than a year now. These include abuses of sick leave and favoritism toward certain employees on the part of some managers. Sources within the library have explained that last year many of the staff went to Dean Frakt with complaints about library operations. In response, the Dean attempted to alter management responsibilities,

specifically, the removal of head librarian Frederica Sedgwick but encountered resistance from some faculty members. Since then, these problems have worsened.

Sources suggest that these problems have been at least partially responsible for the resignation of Ann Turner. Turner, known to be one of the most helpful of the librarians, declined to comment. But others point to her departure as a sign of the growing problem. In particular, they pointed out the daily irritations she faced from the incompetence of others. As one source pointed out, "If (other members of the personnel services department) did their jobs, Ann wouldn't have to spend all of her time looking for the books."

Loyola's library has the potential to become its greatest asset but until current staff problems are addressed, it will remain a thorn in the side.



PROFESSIONAL OPTIONS SOUGHT

Counseling Program to Continue

by Steve McManus

After earlier deciding to eliminate the on-campus counseling program, Dean Arthur Frakt changed his mind last month, saying that psychological counseling will be available next year, but not necessarily in the same form it was this year.

Frakt explained that his initial decision to cut the program was based on significant budget increases for the library, security, maintenance services and computer costs necessitated by Loyola's newly enlarged campus. He said he was attempting to offset the rather large twelve and one-half percent tuition increase for next year by cutting less essential programs such as art and counseling.

In the first few weeks after the decision was made public, however, Frank was persuaded by Assistant Deans Allan Ides and Michi Yamamoto, and by a number of students,

that there was a significant enough number of students in the program to justify keeping it.

Until two years ago all counseling was done at the LMU campus and was paid for through general overhead costs. Last year Alima Sherman, a licensed psychotherapist was hired to provide on-campus counseling two days per week. The demand for counseling was so great that this year Sherman was joined by Michael Cameron, a pre-doctoral intern at UCLA. Since the on-campus program is funded by the law school, and not LMU, Frakt said that he will look at other options to see what other services are available.

"We want to get the best professional counseling we can for the money we have," Frank said. "It may be that we need a variety of counselors for a variety of problems. We may be able to give students a choice of seeing someone

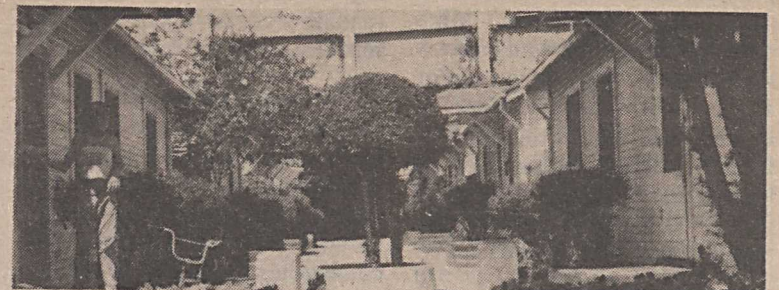
here or somewhere off campus. We're just looking at the possibilities right now."

In discussing the decision to keep counseling, Frakt said he felt the school should only play a limited role in the psychological well-being of its students.

"The school has no role in dealing with the long-term mental health of the students," he stated. "We will help them so that their problems don't interfere with their legal education. But we don't claim to provide life-style services like LMU does."

Based on her research, Alima Sherman stated that in many cases law school has been shown to be more stressful than medical school. One of the reasons is the Socratic method, which forces students to apply reasoning skills to complex fact situations, as opposed to simply memorizing data.

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Earlier this year, with the approval of the Los Angeles City Council, the law school completed a condemnation action against the property just east of the campus. The bungalows (above) and the market are owned by Lily (left) and Charles Henlisch who have operated their neighborhood business ever since emigrating from Poland more than thirty years ago. The school is looking to relocate both the store and the residents of the bungalows.

by Steve McManus

At the April 12 faculty meeting one of the last of Loyola's academic dinosaurs finally met extinction as the faculty approved a proposal mandating some form of graded assignment during the first semester of year-long courses.

Specifically, the requirement is that in all courses taught over two semesters (contracts, torts, civil procedure, property and sometimes evidence) at least 25 percent of the student's grade must be determined during the first semester. The choice of how this is done—e.g. quizzes, tests, papers, etc.—will be left to the discretion of the individual teacher.

In a memo to all the faculty members Associate Dean Alan Ides said his support for the proposal was "based on my belief that

Faculty Approves Policy Mandating Mid-Year Grades for Year-Long Courses

feedback is a necessary part of the educational process. Regardless of the level of participation in a class, the vast majority of students simply have no idea of how they are doing without some type of testing and evaluation. Nor do we have any idea of how successfully we are teaching."

Ides noted that the early feedback would give students a chance to make necessary changes in their study habits. "Let's give our students an opportunity to adjust and improve during the year, rather than in response to a miserable final grade that is posted long after the term has expired."

In order to give effect to the pur-

pose of the new requirement, the faculty was also "strongly requested to provide some form of feedback" on assignments or tests given.

Ides gave strong support for this recommendation in his memo. "a mere number on a paper tells a student very little about the professor's basis for evaluation. In my view the reason for the grade is significant, not the number."

"Everyone has a different way of giving feedback and so I believe we must be flexible. Some may wish to give extensive written comments; others will give a special review session; others may supply a model answer. All of us, I hope, will be

available to discuss the content of the exam with individual students who wish to do so.

"But regardless of the method adopted, I think we should recognize that our obligation to our students extends beyond giving them a numerical rating. If we adopt a mid-year grade requirement and apply it by giving only number grades, we will have defeated the basic purpose of the requirement and undermined our mission as educators."

Ides acknowledged that the requirement will mean more work for the professors, but, in his view, the benefits accruing from the added

load outweigh the burdens. Students will be given an opportunity to see how well they are grasping the material; teachers will derive satisfaction from watching the students improve; since the interim assignments will be narrow in focus, they will not take as long as a final exam to grade; and since some areas have already been covered, the final exam does not have to be as long or exhaustive as it normally is.

The new requirement was based on an SBA proposal which was formulated in the aftermath of the drop in Loyola's bar passage rate and recent criticisms of lack of feedback from students as well, but because of the demanding nature of law school both students and faculty will be better served by the more constant evaluation of how each are performing.

Thanking Those Who Made it All Possible

by Mark Blackman

Students at Loyola get involved in extra-curricular activities for a variety of reasons. While most of them get academic credit (moot court, law review, etc.), the people who serve on SBA get none, and often very little gratitude either.

The SBA put on more events for students this year than any other year. This is because we had a special group of people who were willing to work extremely hard. I would like to acknowledge their work before I leave office.

Going back to last fall, vice-president Deidre Hughes coordinated over 100 volunteer big brothers and sisters and matched them up with the new first year students.

One person who was invaluable to the SBA this year was Tammy Horton. The job of treasurer was colossal because of four sweatshirt sales, yearbooks, plays, Dodger tickets and sixteen student groups who all wanted money. Tammy spent countless hours dealing with all the paperwork.

Another important person in the SBA this year was Barry Bradley. As speakers chairperson, with almost no budget, he arranged for brown-bag speakers forums almost every Tuesday afternoon. Beyond this, Barry also did a great job coordinating special interest group speakers programs.

Stephanie Davis did an outstanding job as the day SBA's faculty representative. Several conflicts came up this year relating to the alcohol policy, bar passage rates

and library hassles. Stephanie attended both the regular SBA meetings and the faculty's in order to convey our feelings on these and other important issues.

As ABA/LSD representatives, Phil Soto and Tim Clarke were able to get us one of the highest percentages of ABA membership in the country with almost 1,000 of our 1,200 students joining.

Another important part of the SBA's function is to plan parties and off-campus events. As social chairperson, Martha Romero organized the Halloween and Valentine's Day parties as well as the final party of the year. She also helped coordinate Dodger Night, 42nd Street and La Cage Aux Folles.

Eight people served their respective classes as representatives. Michael Turner, Jim Ryals and Paul Fitzmaurice took time from the first year endurance race to work on SBA, to bring students' concerns to the SBA and to help plan events. Tzivia Schwartz and Manny Dominguez, as second year class reps, coordinated the clothing drive for the probationer's families. Third year reps Kim Sloan and Susan Gentile have planned the second Barristers Ball, arranged for the graduation speaker and helped put together the first yearbook in many years.

Next year's SBA President, Darnell Parker, has a great board of people to work with. I have had a great time serving as SBA president this year and I hope students feel that I kept my campaign promises.

Room for Improvement

(continued)

right vigorously. But it's also used as a shield for inadequate teaching which rises to the level of incompetence.

The faculty has to stop acting like a social club and begin to fulfill its responsibility to the students and not just some perceived duty to other faculty members.

Maybe the problem is a matter of perspective. If a professor has a problem teaching, such as lack of any knowledge of the subject matter or something extrinsic, like alcoholism, giving him another chance may seem only fair. But for the sake of that professor, you have inflicted him and his problem on an entire classroom.

If the experiment fails, you may feel better because you've done all you can to save that professor, but look at the cost! An entire section that doesn't know torts, or property or remedies. Sending out a class without these basic courses is inexcusable and is directly the fault of the faculty.

The Administration

There are so many things to say to the administration. Dean Ides,

congratulations on clerking for the Supreme Court, but what have you done lately? Well, at least you pay attention to the students.

Michi, now there's an interesting job assignment. Those of us who remember her days as placement and admissions director wondered why she was being made a dean. Not that she did a poor job, but it does seem that she keeps getting jobs that she has no previous experience for. I don't mind giving people chances to expand, but I don't like giving them those chances at my expense.

I would like to close this little good-bye piece with a single most visible person on campus - Dean Frakt. Did I write visible? Wrong word, how about most "influential"?

When I was a reporter my first year here, I was assigned to interview the Dean and the rest of the administration. I never did find Dean Frakt that time. His legend grew as the invisible Dean. I never saw him, much less spoke to him, until the middle of my second year. But that doesn't mean we didn't communicate, I regularly read terse little memos we would get. My personal favorite was the "eating and drinking in the classrooms memo" last year. It pointed out the new rooms were getting dirty too fast, a legitimate point, so eating and drinking were no longer permitted. Frakt supported this ban on one ground which to this day amazes me: since you only eat "snack" foods in class, and they're not good for you, you're not really giving anything up.

This was a classic Fraktian memo. It was direct, but quite honest. It was also done without

asking students input, without considering the consequences, and was destined to be ignored. Without a fix of caffeine I don't think half the night classes would operate. Well, so much for practicality.

As to the GPA - Bar Exam memo incident, that really wasn't all that bad. It did reflect the statistics. What was offensive was not what was included, but what was excluded. It did exhort the faculty to "challenge" the student, but there was no admission of blatantly bad teaching.

One professor recently taught remedies for the first time and taught the class into perpetual non-attendance. Another professor ruined community property and trusts and wills through continual absences and lack of preparation. Where was the mention of this type of behavior on the faculty's part in the memo? What about young professors who have great resumes, but who can't explain what a *prima facie* case is? These are the shortcomings I fault the administration and Dean Frakt with. They are not insoluble, but recognition that they exist is a necessary first step.

Oh, by the way, one last mention of bad taste and bad planning. The recent dedication ceremony was very nice, and possibly it was a necessary evil. Loyola must recognize those who support the campus. But today's students are tomorrow's alumni, and hot dogs and soda aren't shrimp and pate. Remember that when you try to solicit money from the Class of '85.

If you've read this far, you may wonder if I've liked this place. Actually, I've enjoyed it a great deal. The majority of professors have been excellent, the staff helpful, and my classmates the best. Good luck and thank you for a good time.

Counseling

(continued)

"In addition, the stress they experience here brings out the other problems in their lives," Mike Cameron added. "Students react in less adaptive ways when under stress. They have a sense of helplessness due to the environment of school, intimidation by their professor's lack of adequate feedback, and the competitive nature of the whole process."

Sherman and Cameron estimated that they saw fifty-six students this year and that others were probably dissuaded from signing up because of the often-long waiting list.

One student who did seek help both last year and this year was third-year student Jayne Taylor. "Alima was a great listener. She really understood the stress I was facing as a single parent and a law student and she reassured me that everything wouldn't fall apart."

"If there were no on-campus counseling I probably wouldn't have sought outside help. I can't afford it. My budget is very tight. I could get low-cost help at LMU, but I live too

far away. If I hadn't sought counseling, I might not have taken advantage of certain opportunities at school such as law review.

"The admissions policy of the school is to take people of diverse backgrounds—women, older people and minorities. Along with them comes additional stress and insecurity. They take a greater risk in coming here—they have families and have good paying jobs. Once the school admits them, it shouldn't let them flounder or leave them worse off than they were when they entered law school."

Regardless of the form which psychological counseling will take this fall, Frakt's change of heart was due in large part to the few students who managed to hear about the original decision and who immediately voiced their complaints to the administration. They were upset, not only because they felt that counseling was needed but also because, like so many other administrative decisions this year, the decisions to cut the program was made without seeking any student input.

Students Initiated Into Alpha Sigma Nu

On Saturday, April 20, seventeen second and third year Loyola Law School students were initiated into Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honorary Society. Membership in Alpha Sigma Nu is based on academic standing as well as evidence of loyalty and service to the University, and dedication to the goals and values of Jesuit higher education. Law school initiates were selected by a special committee of Alpha Sigma Nu faculty members chaired by Professor Frederick J. Lower, Jr.

The honorary initiates this year were the Rev. James N. Loughran, S.J., President of LMU, and Arthur N. Frakt, Dean of Loyola Law School. Dean Frakt gave the initiation address and Michael J. Finnegan, chapter president, administered the initiation pledge to 93 new members selected from the undergraduate colleges, the graduate program, and the law school. Over 300 members, new initiates, family and friends, faculty and administrators attended the initiation.

The law school inductees were: Darryl Scott Cordle, William Leamon Cummings, Thomas James Daly, Elizabeth J. Delgado, James J. Freedman, Jack B. Hicks III, Scott B. Kidman, John Kevin Lilly, Erich Luschei, Moses J. Kushman, Lisa Diane Mahrer, Christie Lynn Morehead, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Paul Nathan Phillips, Deborah J. Snyder, Christine D. Sagnoli and James J. Sullivan.

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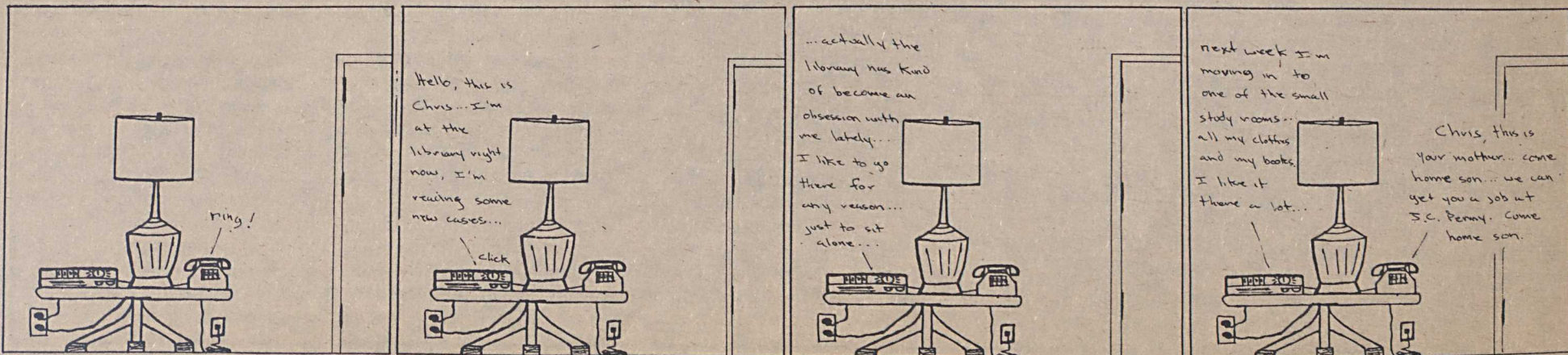
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by Steve's roommate



HANS VAN LIGTEN

Recognizing That Problems Exist

After more than two and one-half years here, I've seen and experienced some interesting and amazing things. The following paragraphs are addressed to some specific people or groups, but feel free to read them anyway.

Maintenance

We undoubtedly have some of the nicest maintenance people in the city. In fact, if they became the administration or the library staff, this would be a much nicer place, and probably would run better.

Steve Johnson runs the physical plant, and apparently is the only person who really knows what's going on here. But Steve, can somebody please find the instruction manual for the thermostats on campus? I mean, come on, there's no reason the air conditioning only comes on when either 1) it's 90 degrees outside and 100 degrees inside, or 2) it's 60 degrees inside and 50 degrees outside. Call me picky, but that doesn't seem quite right.

Things have gotten better though. In some buildings the air conditioning always works, but then again you'd expect that in the administration building.

Library and Library Staff

The library does look nice doesn't it? The skylight is a nice touch, but I wonder if Frank Gehry has ever heard of the green house effect. No matter, the school can cover the increased cooling costs by raising tuition.

To those of you who never really had to spend time at the "old" library, be thankful. The temperature never varied from a comfortable range between 62 and 105 degrees. The seating was generous, but unfortunately also crippling. I'm not that tall, but I swear you had to be over six feet not to be hurt by those old chairs. Lighting varied, but was good overall and if you were lucky you got one of the two study rooms.

Well, the new improved library got rid of the old chairs, and they did add lots of rooms, but the temperature is a little unpredictable and the lights, well, let's say they do light up the ceiling well.

Let's talk library staff. Is there more than one person who knows where anything is? The apparent responsibility of the library staff is shelving books and wandering behind the counter. Oh well, who

needs help in a law library anyway? I can't accuse them all of being less than helpful, because I never had the opportunity to ask them any questions, mostly because so few ever do reference work. As to that one librarian who was always helpful and available, I thank you for myself and my classmates.

The Class of '85

Before I forget you folks, let me say this has, overall, been a pleasant experience. To those of you who valued success over all else, I hope you never succeed. To those who had some perspective, and never let our admittedly competitive natures get the best of you, best of luck and best wishes.

The Faculty

What a mixed bag. Many of you are quite competent. In fact you've excelled at teaching us. Others, well maybe you should reconsider your career choice. It seems to me that the purpose of a law school is to teach not to provide a forum for people to avoid working or to stroke their own egos. This school, like many others, values academic freedom and the faculty protects that

(Continued on page 2)

POLLY LOWELL RICH

Pursuing a Dream

It is almost done now. In a few short weeks three years of law school will be over for many of us, years that have flown by, soon to be filed away in the treasure house of memory. And between the Scylla of the last set of finals and the Charybdis of the Bar exam will be graduation, a rite of passage of triumph and relief, tears and hugs, loss and gain. So, herewith, a look backward—and forward.

The names of cases crowd my mind—the days we discussed them, the laughter in the room, the sound of the words as they slip off the tongue . . . the pure English liquid ring of *Pierson v. Post* and *Armory v. Delamirie*, the mis-bailed diamonds of *Peet v. Roth Hotel*, the hilarity of the *Carbolic Smoke Ball* case, the elusive sound of mystery around *Conroe Gin, Ice & Light*. It was a rainy and cold winter and spring our first year, and that contributed to making Room C something of a haven. Even though it was large and exceedingly drab, for a year it was our cozy home away from home. Room C had the friendly shades of good memories and good feeling. I miss it.

In the midst of past and present warmth, however, there has been a chill this year—a sense of alienation that cannot be denied, an atomization that all could feel and struggled

to explain. Its sources were many, but to enumerate them would be not only speculative but beside the point.

What counts is that most of us found something and not always the same something, as we surged forward in our legal education. It was something beyond just the pursuit of the degree itself. And isn't it that something we all seek, no matter what our chosen profession? Something wonderful, shimmering opalescent softly glowing in the dark of night that makes us warm to the core and pulls us through? Even if it's only a distant dream?

Experience has shown us the benign way of nature in that bad memories fade faster than good ones and that the mind retains remembered pleasure long after it has dismissed anger and piercing pain. Thus it isn't that I have no memory at all of the bad times—it's simply that the good transcends the painful.

Beyond getting an excellent legal education, over three years I have forged good friendships at Loyola—with classmates and professors—people I want to keep as friends for a lifetime. So as I say farewell, it is really not goodbye at all. What is close to the heart is what is important: it is that which gives life, and nourishes—and lasts.

JOAN MOUNTEER

Regaining Credibility

In a few short weeks, I will graduate from law school—I am about to enter what society has traditionally viewed as a noble profession. I would like to think of it that way, also, and yet deep down I know that the law is in a state of crisis: I know that my chosen profession has lost credibility in the society it purports to serve.

Evidence of this condition abounds on the pages of this newspaper. For example, marijuana is illegal in California, yet it is our largest cash crop; illegal aliens are, supposedly, illegal in California, yet their presence is unmistakable here. Therein lies the crisis—citizens are frustrated with laws which they perceive as ineffective, unjust, or immoral. Thus, they have begun to take the law into their own hands. While they haven't taken to burning marijuana fields, they have bombed abortion clinics and shot subway assailants in the back.

Abortion is legal, though, and arson is a crime. Citizens may use deadly force in self-defense under certain circumstances, but what civilized jurisdiction would permit the same when the victim shoots his attacker in the back suggesting that the attacker was retreating?

Our laws represent the collective voice of society vis-a-vis what conduct we have determined to be inappropriate. Our criminal justice system was created so that as citizens we could enjoy life in a peaceful and orderly society. It was created in the recognition that society would be chaotic if vigilante committees handle transgressions according to their own assessment of what constitutes appropriate behavior. To avoid the inevitable anarchy that such unaccountable vigilantism would foster, our

criminal justice system was conceived to seek out, apprehend and prosecute those charged with criminal conduct.

As on about to enter the legal system, I ask myself what is the basis for such contempt for the system as evidenced by resort to such extra-legal measures? Is it possible that I am about to enter a legal system that is out of touch with society? Are the members of my future profession formulating laws that its system of justice is either unwilling or unable to enforce? What will my generation of lawyers do to remedy this crisis? On a more personal level, what will I do as an individual lawyer in an effort to alleviate the problem?

I enter the profession with high hopes that I will be able to positively impact the law in some way. But how will I be able to maintain this idealism? What will become of the integrity and values I bring to law as a novice lawyer?

Thus, I enter my profession with some trepidation, not only for myself, but for society in general. My peers and I must confront the crisis and regain the confidence of society—to recoup our status as a noble profession. Unfortunately, I can offer no solutions as yet, though hopefully someday they will come to me.

In the meantime, society must know that there are others like me in the law who are aware of, and concerned about, the legal system. I therefore would ask society to bear with those of us so concerned, for it is in the interest of an orderly society to do so. The alternative is further erosion of lawyers' credibility, resulting ultimately in a lawless society, in which, as Hobbes once observed, life would be "nasty, brutish, solitary and short."

STEVE McMANUS

An Obligation to Help Others

There is a strong temptation, as graduation approaches, to let personal reflections become clouded with sentimentalism—to dwell on the good times and let the disappointments fade from memory.

I can't do that with my law experience, however. This is partly because it is still too close in time and partly because it took more out of me than anything I have ever done before. But mostly it is because, in all honesty, I was very disappointed with the quality of some of the teaching and also with the way the administration dealt with important issues.

Law school teaches us, in a very intensive fashion, the value of critical thinking and the need to question authority. Yet when we focus these skills on the very institution from which we learned them, it fails, in many areas to survive even a low-level of scrutiny.

However, it is not my intention to debate these problems again today. Despite the administrative problems, the enormous academic demands and the continuous inconvenience caused by the construction, our class has survived. Therefore, I want to congratulate my classmates.

The last three years have been the most arduous of my life, and I can't imagine it's been any less a struggle for anyone else. I worked through all three years, paid rent, cooked, washed, ironed, fixed my car and typed all my papers. My eyes deteriorated significantly from all the reading and I experienced the embarrassment of having to constantly borrow money from family and friends.

But my misfortunes paled in comparison to those of some of my classmates. Some went through divorces. Some were beset by serious illness or operations. A couple of students had their cars stolen, with all their books and notes inside, the week before finals. We all endured stress, sacrifice and hardship. For that we deserve some applause and recognition.

No matter how bad things got however, we needed to look no further than the sidewalks around our fenced-in campus to give perspective to our problems and to realize how fortunate we are in relation to the vast majority of society. We are among the intellectual elite of America. And even though the specter of student loans casts a dark shadow over the next several years, we will all eventually be able to enjoy a level of financial comfort and security that the masses will only experience vicariously. In short, we have been blessed.

Maybe I'm a bit idealistic, but when I entered law school I thought of lawyering as an adventurous occupation. Of course I knew there would be some drudgery, but I saw lawyers as people who were constantly challenging the values of society as we moved into new social frontiers—genetic cloning, toxic waste, and civil and criminal rights.

I grew up in the 1960s when the top law school graduates often put social ideals ahead of their corporate marketability and aspired, at least initially, to work as public defenders, public interest lawyers or as clerks for judges. Nowadays, the trend is toward landing jobs with prestigious firms paying \$40-50,000 a year to start. Public serv-

ice has given way to Porsches and Perrier.

I'm not saying we don't have the right to collect whatever salary we can attract. What I'm saying is that many of the important legal rights we have and principles that have been espoused by the courts have come about because lawyers felt an obligation to people like those who live next door to our school. If the best among us are snatched up by the highest bidders, then who will pass the laws, prosecute the lawless, teach jurisprudence and defend the accused—and who will bring giant corporations to justice when they break the laws?

A distinguished legal correspondent for CBS answered this question by saying, "Of course, there will always be lawyers to perform these tasks. But if they are no longer the very best of our people, then obviously something important will have been lost. And if the universities have narrowed their purpose primarily to become places where comfortable people prepare for their private lives, then something precious will have been lost there too."

I am not proposing that we forego our jobs with good firms and instead flood the local ACLU office with resumes and applications. But for those of us who don't enter public service, I would hope that as we start to reap the material rewards of our intelligence and hard work, we will all aspire to something more than a comfortable life—that we will do what we can through education, pro bono work and contributions of our time and money to benefit those less fortunate than ourselves.

Good luck.

HOMEMAKING A LOW PRIORITY

Strauss Prefers Classroom to Cooking

by Catherine Brame

Marcy Strauss is the "professor under fire" this edition. In her first full-time teaching position as a visiting professor, she has been invited back next year on a permanent basis (tenure track).

Prior to coming to Loyola, Strauss worked part-time for an appellate firm, Horvita & Levy, which she describes as an extremely progressive and enjoyable firm. Her part-time commitment there stemmed from her desire to get situated in her new home (having recently moved from Chicago) and to spend some time with her 20-month-old son, Jeff. She found the position to be quite flexible and was free to bring her son in to work with her - a relatively new development in law firms.

Strauss indicated that bringing a child in to work creates a different atmosphere, but that everyone seems to enjoy it. Prior to moving to California, she completed her judicial clerkship following the birth of her son, and Jeff accompanied her to work then too. However, she found that she was quite engrossed with her newborn, and that she wasn't the only one who was distracted. Everyone at work wanted to play with him on the job - a possible drawback to bringing a child to work.

While spending two years at Georgetown doing work toward her juris doctor, Strauss authored a criminal law excerpt for the law review. Her J.D. was completed at Northwestern University in Chicago following her move there with

her husband. She explained that third-year transfers are generally allowed if they stem from an important family necessity.

Strauss has a strong interest in public international law, civil rights and constitutional law. Her recent work includes an article on comparable worth published in the magazine "Cogitation." She is currently researching a legal ethics issue regarding allocation of decision-making authority between attorneys and clients.



Marcy Strauss

Involvement with civil rights has led quite naturally into involvement with women's rights, and Strauss recently conducted a "brown bag forum" on sexual harassment. She is also scheduled to be one of the speakers at the Women in Law Forum which has been trailed to the fall.

Strauss is teaching two sections of ARW and two Legal Ethics classes, and taught Employment Discrimination last semester. She has been very pleased with the quality of the students and she describes herself as receptive to suggestions—"eager to learn."

Her enthusiasm for her students was reflected in her recent invitation to her ARW students to join her and her husband, Irwin, for dinner. The students dined on Irwin's lasagne, and reports say that "a good time was had by all."

While she is a woman of many talents, Strauss admits that homemaking is low on her list of priorities. According to Strauss, her cooking extends to Shake'n Bake; cleaning includes picking up clothes; and, she was formerly cited as an example of what not to do in her *one* sewing course. Husband, Irwin, who doesn't particularly care for Shake'n Bake, cooks each evening, and she loads the dishwasher. This gives each of them an opportunity to spend time in the evening with Jeff. Irwin teaches law at USC during the days, and most of the couple's free time is spent at home with Jeff.

Strauss enjoys junk novels (historical fiction) and music of all kinds. (Her dedication to music is questionable—as a budding young classical pianist, she gave over piano for high school debate.) Strauss' "secret ambition" is to be a rock singer - perhaps she'd emulate her favorites, Ronstadt, Bonoff and Lauper. However, the better bet is that she wouldn't emulate anyone. She'd be her own breed of hot rocker as the one and only Marcy Strauss.

Professor Strauss exudes warmth, vitality and insight into the concerns of her students. We look forward to the pleasure of "rocking" with her.

Public Interest Law Is Alive and Well

by Betty Farnum

In the beginning of March I was fortunate enough to attend the third annual Western Public Interest Law Conference held at the University of Oregon's Law School in Eugene. The conference was sponsored by Land, Air, Water and the Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic which are associated with the School's Environmental Law Program.

About 200 attorneys, law students and activists participated in the series of workshops and lectures which focused on issues and tactics in public interest law generally and environmental law particularly. The specific areas covered included "Indian Rights and Environmental Protection," "Competing Interests in Ocean and Coastal Resources," "Wilderness Protection," and "Pesticide Litigation."

Another series of more general workshops dealt with citizen participation and the law, and conducting environmental trials. The workshops were designed to provide an opportunity for networking of ideas and people involved in environmental law. To that end, the panelists' presentations were very practical and often augmented by suggestions from experienced members of the audience.

The first workshop I attended, entitled, "Citizen Participation and the Law" essentially recognized the importance of a mutually respectful relationship between attorneys and activists when pursuing public interest litigation. For ex-

ample, Derrick Bell, dean of the law school and former NAACP legal defense attorney, recalled how he once saw himself, the lawyer, as the people's savior. He thought victory in the courts was of single importance. Since then, he has come to realize instead that a political base of support is key to achieving goals of social reform. Although lawsuits can be used as leverage, even if you win in court, you still may lose with the legislature.

The workshop on environmental trials dealt with special problems encountered by environmental lawyers. An attorney for the Sierra Club spoke about ways to minimize the costs of litigation which often are very high and how important it is to know which cases to pursue. She and others also discussed techniques for building a good record and ways to engage the interest of the judge who will often be unfamiliar with environmental issues.

Later I attended a workshop on wilderness litigation which was led by attorneys from the National Wildlife Federation. There was a lot of audience participation and debate on successful tactics in protecting wilderness areas. Clearly people had had a variety of experience dealing with different state and federal agencies. There was also some controversy about a lawsuit which seeks to enjoin the hunting of certain species of waterfowl in Alaska. The objections to barring Alaskan natives from hunting birds in their breeding grounds represented a common theme involving threatened and endangered species. Do we side with the animals or the people?

At lunchtime and at the end of the workshops there were several speeches given by prominent lawyers. Ralph Abascal, General Counsel for the California Rural Legal Assistance, spoke on methods of funding public interest law. Next, Frank Grad, Columbia Law School's Chamberlain Professor of Legislation, spoke on liability for Hazardous Waste and the shelter of the Bankruptcy Act. This problem - hazardous waste cleanup costs and the recent trend of companies declaring bankruptcy seeking to avoid their obligations, has been recently addressed by the Supreme Court in *Ohio vs. Kovacs*. However, Professor Grad pointed out that many related issues remained unresolved.

Gerry Spence, one of the nation's leading trial lawyers, gave the keynote speech. Having flown in that morning, in his private jet, from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, he was every bit as flamboyant as we expected him to be. He preferred not to discuss any of the cases he had worked on but spoke generally and philosophically about the need to be "committed" and the pitfalls of becoming a lawyer and practicing law. While there may have been more form than substance to his speech, he struck the right note after a long day of nitty gritty informational exchange.

Most people attending the conference came from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and Colorado. California was represented also, although there were only two of us from Los Angeles.

The experience of being with so many people sharing a commitment to public interest law gave me a psychological boost as I'm sure it did to the other participants. I am glad to report, public interest law is alive and well.

News Notes: Tenures Sabbaticals and Leaves

The more things change, the more they stay the . . . well, you know the song. Okay, here's the big scoop on which professor's door you can keep knocking on and prayerfully await an answer, who's door you can forget, and new doors to ponder.

Associate Dean Alan Ides has been granted tenure. And new profs Lary Lawrence and Victor Gold have also been granted tenure. Up for tenure next year—Joe Sliskovich, Lon Sobel, and Ken Vogel. Good luck guys.

Now on the slippery slope of tenure track are Richard Macias, Marcy Strauss, Karl Manheim, and Don Brosnan. Arriving at Loyola in Fall 1985 will be Larry Solum, Kathryn Tate, and Ruel Walker, all as associate professors on tenure track.

On the departures side . . . Clem Smith has retired. Michael Lightfoot will be on leave next year. Susan Liebler will continue on leave with the International Trade Commission. Harry Laughran will be on a two-year leave, to return in Fall 1987.

On sabbatical next year: David Tunick, on partial sabbatical, will teach only Computer Law. Michael Josephson, on full sabbatical, will utilize his time working on multitudinous writing projects. Gerry Uelman will also be researching and writing on his one-semester (Spring) sabbatical, as well as traveling. Fred Lower, also on Spring sabbatical, will be writing a book on insurance law. How's that for a vacation?

REGISTRATION READY BY FALL?

The Computer Age Comes to Loyola

by Hans Van Ligten

Loyola is finally about to enter the high-tech age with the arrival of the new IBM System 36 mini computer, which has the hardware to eliminate some of the most time-consuming but venerated practices of the past.

According to Susan Shepard, director of personnel, the System 36 will be used to automate many of the functions in financial aid, admissions and the registrar's office. In the future there will be no need to constantly duplicate recordkeeping between offices.

The first goal of this integration is to speed up the acceptance process so that Loyola can more effectively compete for the best students. Once the system is completely operational, better applicants will be identified sooner and the financial aid office will be able to formulate an aid offer more quickly.

A second major goal of the system is to bolster faculty support needs. Apparently the demands on the faculty to publish are becoming more stringent. As a result, they have gone from three manuscripts per year just three years ago to more than fifty per year presently. In response, faculty members have been supplied with several new word processors which are separate from the System 36.

The third goal of the present program is to provide academic support for students through computer-assisted learning techniques. Loyola is joining the Center for Computerized Legal Instruction and will attempt to identify and employ some of their useful programs in the future.

The area of computerized teach-

ing is still very new, Shepard pointed out, but she has high hopes that it will soon be part of the services available to Loyola students. They are currently looking at a torts program being developed but because of the high cost involved, Loyola may have to wait a little longer before experimenting with these computerized programs. Shepard also stated that word processors may eventually be available for student use, possibly on a rental basis.

While the hardware for System 36 is in place, the software is still being designed. The registrar's office will be fully computerized in time for fall registration if all goes well. As soon as the software ar-

rives, grading, student evaluations, and objective testing will also become computerized. Shortly after that, financial aid and admissions will follow.

Beyond these areas, the library will be the next focus of computerization. The librarians are currently "retrospectively categorizing" all the books there. When the multi-year process is completed, Loyola will have a computerized cardfile. Additionally, another computer will be needed just to manage all the administrative and financial functions of the library. Loyola is also trying to develop a major computerized laboratory in the library using computerized teaching aids.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 1985

from the editors and staff of the Loyola Reporter